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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/726,847	11/29/2000	James B. Henrie	PALM-3533.US.P	1952

7590 12/07/2004

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EXAMINER

CASIANO, ANGEL L

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2182

DATE MAILED: 12/07/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/726,847	Applicant(s) HENRIE ET AL.	
	Examiner Angel L Casiano	Art Unit 2182	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 September 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-9 and 12-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 9 and 12-16 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-8 and 17-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office action is in response to Amendment dated 05 January 2004 and RCE dated 14 September 2004.
2. Claims 1-2, 4-9, 12-23 are pending in the application.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

3. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 05 January 2004 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-2, 4-8, 17-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hanson et al. [US 6,442,734 B1] in view of Ojala [US 5,655,092], in further view of Severt et al. [US 5,602,750].

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Regarding claim 1, Hanson et al. teaches a method for selecting an application used with a communication interface (see col. 1, lines 47-49) in a computer system. The cited method includes entering a mode for executing the application (see col.1, lines 50-56). It is also disclosed the step of identifying the type of connection according to a resistance value (see col. 5, lines 13-15, 23-26, 36-37; col. 6, lines 21-23; col. 7, lines 5-8; col. 8, lines 31-32). Hanson et al. discloses the selection of an application form used with the identified type of communication interface (see col. 1, lines 58-61; col. 2, lines 53-56; col. 3, lines 21-23). However, the reference does not explicitly cite using a single pin for associating the communication interface. Regarding this limitation, Ojala teaches identifying an interface (see Abstract). This reference teaches “one operating voltage pin” (see also Abstract). Ojala teaches identifying an interface on the basis of a change in the pin voltage (see “one operating voltage pin”, col. 7, lines 36-39). At the time of the invention, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine the references in order to obtain a method for identifying an interface immediately after the device has been installed, as taught by Ojala (see Abstract). The combination of references does not teach reading a resistance value of a pin on a *cradle element* that “receives the portable computer system and that couples the personal computer system to a second computer system”. Severt et al. discloses the use of a “cradle element” for receiving a portable computing system (see Fig. 3; col. 4, line 60). The combination of references (see Hanson et al., col. 8, lines 43-50) teaches reading a pin in a communication device. The combination of references does not disclose the computer system coupled to the communication interface as being portable. However, it does expose the method as applicable to a portable computer (see Hanson et al., col. 3, lines 36-42). One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify the cited

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combination of disclosures by including a cradle element in order to apply the cited method to portable computing systems.

As for claim 2, the combination of references (see Hanson et al.) discloses the step of entering a mode as responsive to input from a user, independent of the communication interface (see Id., col. 4, lines 22-27). As it is exposed, the user can enter a mode to execute a particular application regardless of the type of interface.

As for claim 4, the combination of prior art explicitly discloses the step of identifying the type of communication interface according to a voltage value for a single pin (see Ojala, col. 7, lines 22-38).

As for claim 5, it is not exposed in the combination of prior art the step of selecting an application for debugging applications on the portable computer system. Nonetheless, the references include the selection of different applications to be used on the portable computer system (see Hanson et al., col. 1, lines 53-56; col. 2, lines 56-59). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the selection of debugging applications on the portable system, since these are well known in the art.

As for claim 6, the references disclose the selection of the application for sharing information (see Hanson et al., col. 1, lines 53-56; col. 2, lines 56-59; col. 4, lines 38-47). Although communication between a portable computer and a second computer is not explicitly disclosed,

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the reference does mention the applicability of the referenced method to portable systems (see *Id.*, col. 3, lines 36-42).

As for claim 7, the prior art combination teaches the identification of USB-type communication interface (see Hanson et al., col. 8, lines 63-67; Figures 3A, 3B) and the use of applications with a USB communication interface (see *Id.*, col. 4, lines 19-20).

As for claim 8, the cited art combination does not teach the identification of an RS232 connection or the use of the application with an RS232 communication device. However, it does disclose that RS232 is a commonly used serial interface (see Hanson et al., col. 1, lines 27-29). Therefore, it would have been obvious to expand the system and method disclosed by Hanson et al. in order to support RS232-type interface since it is a well known communication interface.

Regarding claim 17, the prior art includes a method for selecting an application form used with a type of communication interface (see col. 1, lines 58-61; col. 2, lines 53-56; col. 3, lines 21-23). The method in the Hanson et al. cited disclosure performs the step of selecting an application used with a type of communication interface (see Figure 1; col. 3, line 53; col. 5, lines 56-59, 64-65; col. 8, lines 43-47). It is also disclosed by Hanson et al. the step of identifying the type of connection according to a resistance value (see col. 5, lines 13-15, 23-26, 36-37; col. 6, lines 21-23; col. 7, lines 5-8; col. 8, lines 31-32). Hanson et al. teaches the selection of an application form used with the identified type of communication interface (see col. 1, lines 58-61; col. 2, lines 53-56; col. 3, lines 21-23). However, the reference does not explicitly cite using a single

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pin for associating the communication interface. Regarding this limitation, Ojala teaches identifying an interface (see Abstract). This reference teaches “one operating voltage pin” (see also Abstract). Ojala teaches identifying an interface on the basis of a change in the pin voltage (see “one operating voltage pin”, col. 7, lines 36-39). At the time of the invention, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine the references in order to obtain a method for identifying an interface immediately after the device has been installed, as taught by Ojala (see Abstract). The combination of references does not teach reading a resistance value of a pin on a *cradle element* that “receives the portable computer system and that couples the personal computer system to a second computer system”. Severt et al. discloses the use of a “cradle element” for receiving a portable computing system (see Fig. 3; col. 4, line 60). The combination of references (see Hanson et al., col. 8, lines 43-50) teaches reading a pin in a communication device. The combination of references does not disclose the computer system coupled to the communication interface as being portable. However, it does expose the method as applicable to a portable computer (see Hanson et al., col. 3, lines 36-42). One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify the cited combination of disclosures by including a cradle element in order to apply the cited method to portable computing systems.

As for claim 18, the combination of prior art discloses the method as including the step of entering a mode responsive to an input from a user (see Hanson et al., col. 4, lines 22-27). The combination of references teaches a method where the user can enter a mode to execute a particular application independent of the type of communication interface.

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As for claim 19, the combination of prior art explicitly discloses the step of identifying the type of communication interface according to a voltage value for a single pin (see Ojala, col. 7, lines 22-38).

As for claim 20, it is not included in the prior art combination the step of selecting an application for debugging applications on the portable computer system. Nonetheless, the references teach the selection of different applications to be used on the portable computer system (see Hanson et al., col. 1, lines 53-56; col. 2, lines 56-59). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the selection of debugging applications on the portable system, since these are well known in the art.

As for claim 21, the combination of references discloses the selection of the application for sharing information (see Hanson et al., col. 1, lines 53-56; col. 2, lines 56-59; col. 4, lines 38-47). Although communication between a portable computer and a second computer is not explicitly disclosed, the reference does mention the applicability of the referenced method to portable systems (see Id., col. 3, lines 36-42).

As for claim 22, the prior art combination discloses the identification of USB-type connection (see Hanson et al., col. 8, lines 63-67; Figures 3A, 3B) as well as the use of applications with a USB communication interface (see Id., col. 4, lines 19-20).

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As for claim 23, the cited prior art of prior art does not disclose the identification of an RS232 connection or the use of an application with an RS232 communication device. However, it does teach that RS232 is a commonly used serial interface (see Hanson et al., col. 1, lines 27-29). Therefore, it would have been obvious to expand the system and method disclosed by the references in order to support RS232-type connections since it is a well-known communication interface.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

6. Previous Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph have been overcome with the correction included in the present Amendment.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 9 and 12-16 are allowed.

8. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The prior art does not teach or suggest a portable computer system, as disclosed in claim 9, where a "handwriting recognition pad coupled to the bus" includes a "first region for alphabetic characters and a second region for numeric characters". This computer system also actuates an application in response to a first character entered in the first region of the handwriting recognition pad and a second character entered in the second region of the handwriting recognition pad. This application is selected according to the type of communication interface.

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

- Alfaro et al. [US 5,646,865] teaches to *identify the resistance value* of the element 22 and to identify the *adapter type* and the corresponding vehicle to which the adapter is *interfaced* (emphasis added).

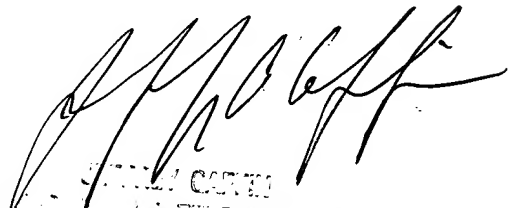
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Angel L Casiano whose telephone number is 571-272-4142. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00-5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey Gaffin can be reached on 571-272-4146. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Alc
02 December 2004.



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SENIOR PATENT EXAMINER
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